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NOTES ON CERTAIN SPECIES OF PANICUM OCCURRING IN OR NEAR RHODE ISLAND

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IN February, 1928, Mr. C. A. Weatherby examined the specimens of *Panicum* in my herbarium, and also others which were unnamed and unmounted. He was kind enough to revise the names of a few of the species and identify all of the unnamed ones, except in the case of a few immature specimens. Somewhat later I became interested in checking up the available published records of distribution of the different species, particularly records of their occurrence in Rhode Island and adjacent Massachusetts and Connecticut. This was followed by a check-up of specimens in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club and the Gray Herbarium. The results were unexpectedly interesting from the point of view of the presence or absence of certain species in Rhode Island. These results are here briefly summarized as it is thought probable that they may be of interest to other readers of RHODORA, especially to those who collect in southern New England. The lists of species enumerated below include more particularly those in the herbaria mentioned which have been reported or collected recently in Rhode Island. They also include such as are known to occur in adjacent states and might reasonably be expected in Rhode Island. The asterisk (*) indicates species that are recorded in manuals in a general way as occurring in Rhode Island, but are not specifically included from the state in Hitchcock & Chase, "North American Species of *Panicum*" (1910). Specimens in the Gray Herbarium are indicated by (G), those in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club by (NE), and those in the herbarium of the writer by (C).

(1) Reported from Connecticut and Long Island but not from Rhode Island. *P. amarum* Ell., *P. Boscii* var. *molle* (Vasey) H. & C.

(2) Reported from Long Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts but not from Rhode Island. *P. Addisonii* Nash., *P. Commonsianum* Ashe, *P. lucidum* Ashe.

(3) Reported from Long Island and Massachusetts but not Rhode Island. *P. Wrightianum* Scribn. (*P. minutulum* Desv.).

(4) Reported from Connecticut and Massachusetts but not Rhode Island. *P. Bicknellii* Nash., **P. Boscii* Poir., **P. xanthophysum* Gray.

(5) Reported from Connecticut but not Rhode Island. *P. pseudo-pubescentes* Nash, *P. stipitatum* Nash.

(6) Reported from Massachusetts but not Rhode Island. *P. calli-phyllum* Ashe, *P. commutatum* Schultes, *P. Clutei* Nash.

The following notes refer primarily to specimens seen in one or more of the herbaria mentioned above.

P. ALBEMARLENSE Ashe. First reported from Rhode Island by Fernald (RHOD. 24: 98) in 1922. It is now known from the towns of Warwick, Portsmouth (Prudence Island), Westerly, New Shoreham (Block Island), and Little Compton (NE)—all towns bordering on salt water.

P. ANNULUM Ashe. Reported from New Jersey southward and westward. It has been collected by Fernald in Harwich, Mass. (NE. G).

P. AUBURNE Ashe. Reported from Virginia southward. It has been collected on Cape Cod, Mass. (NE. G).

P. BARBULATUM Mx. Reported from Mass. and Conn. It has been collected in Johnston, Warwick (NE), and Westerly, R. I. (C).

**P. CAPILLARE* L. Collected in Warwick and Westerly, R. I. (NE).

P. CAPILLARE var. *OCCIDENTALE* Rydb. (*P. barbipulvinatum* Nash). Reported from Illinois westward. Probably naturalized eastward (RHOD. 21: 110). Reported by Bicknell (RHOD. 16: 82) in 1914 from Marthas Vineyard, Mass., and Long Island, N. Y. Since then specimens have been identified as this variety from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and practically across the country to the Pacific coast (G). In Rhode Island it has been collected in East Providence (Williams, 1903) and Block Island (Fernald, Long and Torrey, 1913) (G).

**P. COLUMBIANUM* Scribn. Collected in Warwick, Little Compton (C), and Charlestown, R. I. (NE).

P. COLUMBIANUM var. *THINIUM* H. & C. Reported from Massachusetts, New Jersey, and southward. It has been collected in Connecticut (NE), and in Hopkinton, R. I. (C).

P. DEPAUPERATUM var. *PSILOPHYLLUM* Fernald. Described as a *n. var.* in 1921 (RHOD. 23: 193). It has been collected in Johnston, Smithfield, Glocester (C), Providence, Warwick (NE. G), Cumberland, East Providence, Coventry, Hopkinton, Westerly, and Middletown, R. I. (NE).

**P. DICHOTOMIFLORUM* Mx. Collected in Providence (NE. C), Warwick, Westerly, and Block Island, R. I. (NE).

P. DICHOTOMIFLORUM var. *PURITANORUM* Svenson. Described as a *n. var.* in 1920 (RHOD. 22: 154) from Cape Cod, Mass. Collected in South Kingstown, R. I., in 1914 by Collins and Fernald (NE).

**P. DICHOTOMUM* L. Reported from Warwick, R. I., in 1908 (RHOD. 12: 216). It is widely distributed in Rhode Island, e. g., in Providence, Lincoln, Johnston (C), Hopkinton (NE. C), Warwick, South Kingstown, Westerly (NE).

P. LANUGINOSUM Ell. Reported from New Jersey southward. It was collected on Block Island, R. I., in 1913 by Fernald, Long and Torrey (NE).

**P. LINEARIFOLIUM* Scribn. Collected in Cumberland in 1917 by Knowlton, and in Foster, R. I., in 1922 by Eaton and Fassett (NE).

**P. LINEARIFOLIUM* var. *WERNERI* (Scribn.) Fernald. Collected in Glocester (NE), Wickford (G), and Block Island, R. I. (NE. G).

P. LONGIFOLIUM Torr. Reported by H. & C. (p. 106) from "Shannock, R. I." This village is situated partly in Richmond and partly in Charlestown. In addition to this station it is known from Hopkinton (NE. C), Westerly and Richmond, R. I. (NE).

P. MATTAMUSKEETENSE Ashe. Reported from Long Island southward. Erroneously reported from Massachusetts in 1901 (RHOD. 3: 114 and 15: 57). It has been collected in Massachusetts (NE. G) and by the writer in South Kingstown, R. I., in 1927 (NE. G. C).

**P. MILIACEUM* L. To be expected on any dumping ground. Collected in Little Compton, East Providence (C), and Providence, R. I. (NE. C).

P. OLIGOSANTHES Schultes. Reported from New Jersey to Texas, and in Massachusetts in 1913 (RHOD. 15: 58 and 64). Collected on Block Island, R. I., in 1913 by Fernald and Long (NE. G).

P. PHILADELPHICUM Bernh., as redefined by Fernald (RHOD. 21: 112). Reported from Connecticut. Collected in Hopkinton, R. I., in 1919 by Ware, Woodward and Harger (NE).

P. SCOPARIOIDES Ashe. Reported from Connecticut (H. & C., p. 239, and RHOD. 15: 66). It has been collected at Sharon, Mass. (NE).

P. SCOPARIUM Lam. Reported from Cape Cod (H. & C., p. 295) and Marthas Vineyard (RHOD. 16: 82), Mass., and from New Jersey southward. Collected on Block Island, R. I., in 1916 by Collins, Gravatt and Spaulding (NE).

P. SUBVILLOSUM Ashe. Reported from Massachusetts and Con-

necticut. Collected by Fernald, Long and Torrey on Block Island, R. I., in 1913 (G).

**P. villosissimum* Nash. Collected in Hopkinton, R. I., in 1919 by Fernald, Woodward and Collins (NE).

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CONCERNING THE PROPER IDENTIFICATION OF LINNAEAN SPECIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE BASED ON MATERIAL COLLECTED BY CLAYTON

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ONE of the great basic collections of American plants is the collection made by Clayton in Virginia. This is preserved in the British Museum. Of it Gray (*Scientific Papers of Asa Gray* 2: 9-10) says: "But still more important is the herbarium of Clayton, from whose notes and specimens Gronovius edited the 'Flora Virginica.' Many Linnaean species are founded on the plants here described for which this herbarium is alone authentic; for Linnaeus, as we have already remarked, possessed very few of Clayton's plants. The collection is nearly complete, but the specimens were not well prepared, and are not therefore always in perfect preservation." "From Gronovius, Linnaeus had received a very small number of Clayton's plants, previous to the publication of the 'Species Plantarum'; but most of the species of the 'Flora Virginica' were adopted or referred to other plants on the authority of the descriptions alone." (l. c. 6.)

We must also bear in mind that Linnaeus had actively assisted Gronovius in the *Flora Virginica*, which was published in 1739-1743. "Other work of Linnaeus in Leyden consisted * * * . He also helped Gronovius with his 'Flora Virginica' in which Linnaeus's principles were embodied." (Jackson, *Linnaeus* 165; Pulteney, *Linnaeus* 49.) Gronovius in the preface to his work (p. 3) acknowledged the assistance of Linnaeus as follows:

"Nullus igitur dubitavi specimina plantarum cum perspicacissimo Linnaeo examinare; utinam reliqua etiam cum doctissimo viro ad examen revocare mihi licuisset."

So when we find Linnaeus in 1753 in his *Species Plantarum* constantly referring to Gronovius' *Flora Virginica*, these references are to a work in which he had assisted and to a collection with which he was personally thoroughly familiar. And these references are of